

The Importance of the Rapture for Our Christian Life

I. Introduction: Thumbnail chart of the future.

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|-------|---------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------|--|----------|
| | Rapture | 3 ½ years | 3 ½ years | | Christ's 1,000 year Rule over the Earth | |
| Grace | | The 7 yr. Tribulation | | 2nd Coming | The Millennium Christ's Rule | Eternity |
| | | Beginning of Sorrows | The Great Tribulation | | The Kingdom from the Heavens Implemented Form | |

Sequence summary:

1. Church saints currently live in the Dispensation of Grace.
2. The Dispensation of Grace will be terminated at the church's departure—the Rapture.
3. Shortly after the Rapture, the seven year Tribulation, also known as the Seventieth Week of Daniel, will begin with the signing of the seven year false peace covenant.
4. The Tribulation will culminate at the physical Second Coming of Christ.
5. At His Second Coming, Christ will set in motion His 1,000 year reign over the earth.
6. The Kingdom Rule will be followed by Eternity.

- ### II. The Rapture is the next event in God's prophetic calendar.
1. The "We" (1 Thes. 4:14, 15, 17; 1 Cor. 15:51-52).
 2. It will occur when the Body is complete (Eph. 4:12-13).
 3. The time is fixed (Heb. 10:37).

- III.** The events of the Rapture are different in time and content than those of Christ's Second Coming—Second Advent.
1. The historical problem—Scofield Bible pp. 1128, 1269.
 2. "One people of God," one content of salvation, confuse earth and heaven.
 3. The order of resurrections—not all the same (1 Cor. 15:20-23 -51- 24).
 4. The resurrection of Old Testament saints will occur when Israel inherits the Promised Land on earth (Ez. 37:11-14).
 5. In contrast the church is resurrected to heaven (Jn. 14:3; 1 Thes. 4:17).
- IV.** Christ's Second Coming will be during the Day of the Lord (Zech. 14:1 *et al*).
1. Christ comes to earth and sets His human feet on Mount Olives (Zech. 14:1, 4).
 2. This is in contrast to "air" at the Rapture (1 Thes. 4:17).
 3. Christ's Second Coming is for judgment of those on the earth (Mt. 25: 31-46).
 4. Christ's Second Coming will be like a thief in the night for most on earth (Mt. 24:43-44).
- V.** Christians will not be subject to the wrath of God at Christ's Second Coming (1 Thes. 5:1-9).

| Christians' Future | Unsaved Ones' Future |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| You all | They |
| Ye | Them |
| Sons of the day | Sons of the night |
| Sons of light | Sons of darkness |
| No wrath (not on earth) | As thief in the night |